

## **Building a Thirteenth Active Component Combat Aviation Brigade**

### **What is it?**

The Army currently has 11 active component (AC) Combat Aviation Brigades (CABs) in its force structure. The Army is currently building a twelfth CAB out of existing assets and is reviewing requirements needed to build a thirteenth CAB.

### **What has Army Aviation done?**

The Army G3 tasked the U.S. Army Aviation Center (USAACE) in 2009 to form a task force to study Army Aviation's modernization strategy. Aviation Study II, an assessment of Army Aviation across Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF) analysis, resulted from the task force's internal assessment. A key finding in the Aviation Study II identified the need for additional Combat Aviation Brigades (CAB) to meet the Chief of Staff of the Army's (CSA) goal of a 1:2 Boots on the Ground (BOG; this term refers to the time a Soldier spends on a unit deployment; normally in terms of months) to dwell ratio for the Active Component (AC) Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs). Due to the current demand for CABs to support operations, Aviation can only meet a 1:1.3 BOG:Dwell ratio. Standing up a thirteenth AC CAB is necessary to improve the dwell time for our CABs in the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) rotation. The thirteenth AC CAB will improve the Aviation BOG:Dwell to about a 1:1.7 ratio.

### **What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?**

Army Aviation is currently reviewing all viable courses of action to resource the thirteenth CAB and assessing the training and stationing impacts associated with standing up an additional Brigade. The Army submitted a feasibility assessment for the thirteenth AC CAB to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) in January 2010. OSD reviewed the assessment and directed the Army to conduct further analysis and provide a decision briefing to include options to compare cost and capability, and an accelerated timeline to establish the brigade and provide necessary resourcing adjustments to complete the process.

### **Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?**

The thirteenth AC CAB will provide additional capability and flexibility to support the ARFORGEN rotation. While it does not achieve the CSA's goal of a 1:2 BOG:Dwell. It increases the active CAB dwell time at home station between combat rotations.

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